

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2-5 and 9-13 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1 and 8 and add Claims 14-16 as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image bearing member bearing ~~[[an]]~~ a toner image thereon; and

~~a transfer~~ an intermediate transfer member contacting with said image bearing member in a contact portion~~[[;]]~~.

wherein the toner image on said image bearing member is transferred to ~~[[a]]~~ transfer medium ~~in said contact portion~~ by said ~~transfer~~ intermediate transfer member, a Young's modulus of said image bearing member is equal to or greater than  $2 \times 10^8 \text{ N/m}^2$  and equal to or less than  $9 \times 10^9 \text{ N/m}^2$ , and contact pressure between said image bearing member and said ~~transfer~~ intermediate transfer member in said contact portion is equal to or greater than  $4.0 \times 10^4 \text{ N/m}^2$  and equal to or less than  $7.3 \times 10^4 \text{ N/m}^2$ .

2 – 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein surface resistivity of said image bearing member is equal to or greater than  $1 \times 10^8 \Omega/\square$  and equal to or less than  $1 \times 10^{15} \Omega/\square$ .

7. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said image bearing member is a photosensitive member, and said transfer medium is an intermediate transfer member or a transfer material.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image bearing member bearing ~~[[an]]~~ a toner image thereon; and  
~~a transfer~~ an intermediate transfer member contacting with said image bearing ~~portion member~~ in a contact portion~~[[;]]~~,

wherein the toner image on said image bearing member is transferred to a transfer material ~~in said contact portion~~ by said ~~transfer~~ intermediate transfer member, surface resistivity of said image bearing member is equal to or greater than  $1 \times 10^8$  ~~[[N/m<sup>2</sup>]]~~  $\Omega/\square$  and equal to or less than  $1 \times 10^{15} \Omega/\square$ , and contact pressure between said image bearing member and said transfer member in said contact portion is equal to or greater than  $4.0 \times 10^4$  ~~[[ $\Omega$ ]]~~  $N/m^2$  and equal to or less than  $7.3 \times 10^4 N/m^2$ .

9 – 13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image bearing member for bearing a toner image;  
an intermediate transfer member which is movable in a moving direction and contacts said image bearing member at a contact portion;  
a cleaning member opposed to said movable intermediate transfer member, for cleaning toner on said intermediate transfer member; and  
a charge elimination member opposed to said intermediate transfer member and positioned upstream of the contact portion and downstream of said cleaning member in the moving direction, for eliminating a charge on said intermediate transfer member,  
wherein the toner image on said image bearing member is transferred to a transfer material by said intermediate transfer member, surface resistivity of said image bearing member is equal to or greater than  $1 \times 10^{15} \Omega/\square$ , and contact pressure between said image bearing member and said intermediate transfer member at the contact portion is equal to or greater than  $2.7 \times 10^4 \text{ N/m}^2$  and equal to or less than  $7.3 \times 10^4 \text{ N/m}^2$ .

15. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said intermediate transfer member is a belt of a single layer belt.

16. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image bearing member for bearing a toner image;  
an intermediate transfer member to which a toner image on said image bearing member is transferred, wherein a Young's modulus of said intermediate transferring member is equal to or

greater than  $2 \times 10^8 \text{ N/m}^2$  and equal to or less than  $9 \times 10^9 \text{ N/m}^2$ ; and

a transfer member forming a transfer area on said intermediate transferring member, for transferring a toner image on said intermediate transfer member to a transfer medium in said transfer area,

wherein an ASKER-C hardness of said transfer member ranges between 35 degrees and 49 degrees,

and wherein a contact pressure between said intermediate transfer member and said transfer member in the transfer area is equal to or greater than  $4.0 \times 10^4 \text{ N/m}^2$  and equal to or less than  $7.3 \times 10^4 \text{ N/m}^2$ .

17. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein said intermediate transfer member is a belt of a single layer belt.